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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. Department of Agriculture
NAT'L AGRI. RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

A summary of significant events of
interest to USDA management

FEB 14 '79

Issue #34
April 16, 1976

EFFORT TO MORE EFFICIENTLY USE D.C. COMPLEX STORAGE SPACE LAUNCHED.....

On April 5, 1976, Assistant Secretary Bolduc wrote to each agency head calling attention to poor utilization of South and Auditors Building storage space. In FY 1976, the Department will spend over \$1 million for the 212,000 square feet of storage space used or misused in the D.C. Complex (cost was \$4.76 per square foot this year). By getting rid of our bumper crop of useless junk, initiating efficient storage practices, and turning misused storage areas back to GSA, we can cut this bill in half and, at the same time, eliminate many of the fire and safety hazards in the Complex. OO is following up with agency Administrative Services Directors to drastically improve this storage space utilization. (Contact: Al Cauley, OO, ext. 72815)

CORRECTION TO HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 1 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING.....

Results of the USDA/OMB meeting on the proposed FY 1976 and FY 1977 ADP ceilings should have been reported as follows: Although OMB appears sympathetic to our request for relief for FY 1976, no assurance was given, and the \$56 million ceiling remains in effect. (Contact: H. Meetze, OADS, ext. 76275)

ASCS TO TRANSFER DISCONTINUED TEST TERMINALS TO FmHA.....FmHA will use the terminals in continuation of their pilot program. (Contact: H. Meetze, OADS, ext. 76275)

USDA'S CENTRALIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM WILL OFFER AGENCIES THE FLEXIBILITY OF DECIDING

- ... What cost centers will be established to measure costs
- ... The accounting basis they will use
- ... Which performance (accomplishment) measures they will use
- ... The structure and contents of their internal reports
- ... Internal reporting levels

(Contact: Leo Palensky, OMF, ext. 77251)

OA REGIONAL AND HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORS VISITED NFC IN NEW ORLEANS ON MARCH 31 - APRIL 2..... Provided auditors with knowledge of NFC so OA can provide better service to USDA agencies. Visit was part of a meeting to project nationwide workload and staffing patterns and to develop career paths for middle managers. (Contact: D. Robertson, OA, ext. 74748)

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL CONFERENCE PACKAGE LISTING MAJOR FY 1977 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR STAFF OFFICES TO BE AVAILABLE BY APRIL 21..... Comprehensive package will be used as a background document for discussion at the Management Council Conference scheduled for Gettysburg, Pa. on May 5-7. Agency input and support of the staff office management objectives will be sought. (Contact: Maryann Ferko, SEC, ext. 73291)

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS OF INTEREST.....

- ... Food Stamp Legislation Passed by Senate. The House will consider the Food Stamp (Reform Act of 1976 (S. 3136). (Contact: Al Duran, OMF, ext. 74654)
- ... Hatch Act Amendments Vetoed On April 12. H.R. 8617 would have amended current law to enable Federal employees to take a more active part in partisan politics. House scheduled to take up the veto on April 29. (Contact: Jackie White, OMF, ext. 74654)
- ... Anti-Discrimination Act of 1976 (S. 3069) Introduced by Senator James L. Buckley, N.Y. Bill prescribes conditions with respect to affirmative action programs required of Federal grantees and contractors in complying with non-discrimination programs. Main thrust is to do away with quotas, goals and timetables which are alleged to discriminate against some for the benefit of others. (Contact: M. Washington, Jr., OEO, ext. 74257)
- ... Budget Deferrals. On April 12, 1976, the House disapproved deferrals for the Soil Conservation Service, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, \$18 million; and the Food and Nutrition Service, Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC), \$61 million. On April 13, 1976, the Department sent revised apportionment schedules to the Office of Management and Budget for their approval to make these funds available for obligation. (Contact: Bob Sherman, OMF, ext. 76176)
- ... Second Supplemental Appropriation Bill Reported. On Friday morning, April 9, the House reported the Second Supplemental Appropriations Bill. They expect to take the Bill up on the floor on Wednesday, April 14. The Senate does not plan to take up the Bill until after the Easter recess. The House Committee approved all the USDA recommendations. In addition, they added the following for the remainder of the fiscal year and the transition quarter:

(\$ in millions)

Emergency Flood Assistance	
Section 216	\$ +8.4
ACP	\$+15.0
Great Plains	\$ +2.0
Child Nutrition	\$ +5.8
(State Admin. Expenses)	
Special Milk	\$+24.0
Forest Service:	
Pay Costs	\$+15.1
Manti Canyon Land Slide	\$ +.7

(Contact: Bob Sherman, OMF, ext. 76176)

- ... First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget Approved. On April 12, 1976, the Senate approved the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget - Fiscal Year 1977 and the Budget for the Transition Quarter which provides for the following:

<u>Fiscal Year 1977</u>		
<u>(In Billions)</u>		
<u>S. Con. Res. 109</u>	<u>President's Budget Request</u>	
Budget Outlays	412.6	394.2
Budget Authority	454.9	433.4
Budget Deficit	50.2	43.0
Federal Revenues	362.4	351.3
Public Debt	711.5	710.4

(Contact: Bob Sherman, OMF, ext. 76176)

- ... Grain Inspection Bill Passed. On April 2 the House passed H.R. 12572, a bill to improve the grain inspection and weighing system. The Senate will take action on S. 3055, a similar bill, as amended by committee on April 26. (Contact: Al Duran, OMF, ext. 74654)
- ... Easter Recess. Both Houses of Congress are scheduled to recess at the conclusion of business on April 14 until Monday, April 26. (Contact: John Mottershead, OMF, ext. 74654)
- ... Statistics. Since the start of the second session of the 94th Congress, Department officials have made more than 460 appearances before the Senate and House Committees, which as far as we can ascertain is tops among government agencies.
- ... U.S. Hits Private School Bias. The Justice Department urged the Supreme Court to outlaw racial segregation in hundreds of all-white private schools, many of them in the South. The case marks the first time the Justice Department has taken a position on the issue of racial discrimination in private schools. Lower courts have already ruled that segregation in private schools is prohibited by an 1866 law guaranteeing all persons the same right in every state and territory to make and enforce contracts. (Contact: M. Washington, Jr., OEO, ext. 74257)

ON APRIL 28, 1976, THE 19 USDA REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON MINORITY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEES (MBOC) THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WILL PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-DAY TRAINING CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. The 19 Representatives - from ARS, ASCS, APHIS, FmHA, FS and SCS - will be acquainted with their MBOC responsibilities and apprised of the type of procurements done by our agencies. The conference will be conducted by the Rural Minority Business Assistance Division, OEO. (Contact: J. Fred King, OEO, ext. 77117)

USDA'S SAVINGS BOND CAMPAIGN IS OFF TO A SMOOTH BUT SLOW START..... As of April 7, 183 new allotments have been reported. Also, 144 employees have increased their allotments. USDA level of participation is still 70%. We need to reach 75% to continue on the Interdepartmental Honor Roll. (Contact: George Bickerton, APHIS, ext. 68051)

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE.....

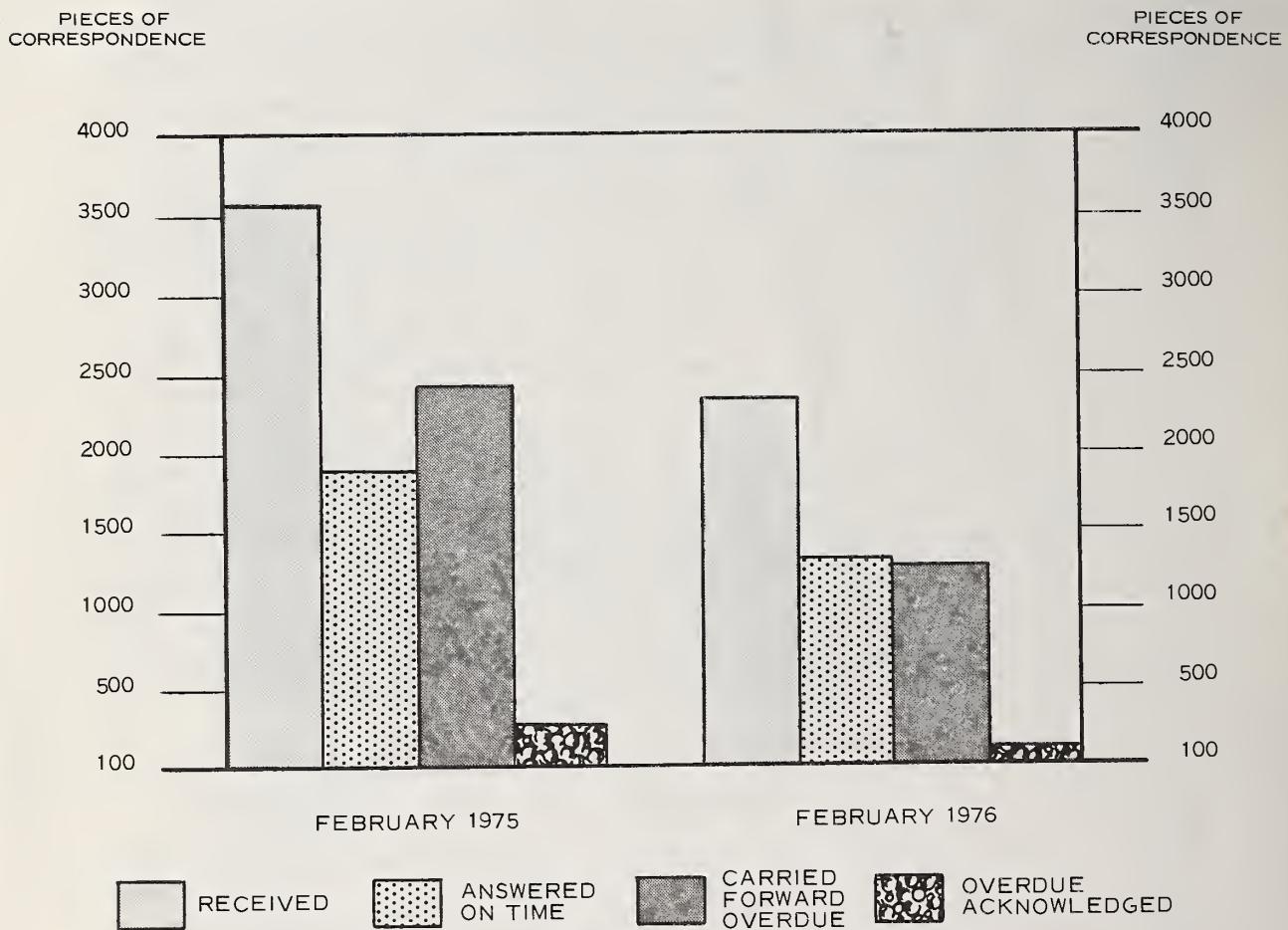
- ... Accurately predicted last year's food price and farm income levels and called the turn in the cattle cycle. These and other forecasts are published in 20 different situation and outlook reports each of which is issued one or more times every year.
- ... Now says food price increases will be much more moderate this year and that farm income should about hold its own.
- ... Estimates annually, starting with 1974, the costs of producing cotton, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, and soybeans by various regions of the United States.
- ... Predicts that U.S. food production capacity will continue to exceed domestic needs between now and 1985 meaning that the U.S. can continue to provide large quantities of food for export.
- ... Publishes a new comprehensive monthly situation report, Agricultural Outlook, which members of Congress have applauded with such comments as "It ought to be read by every Congressman."
- ... Places U.S. agriculturists in developing nations as part of the AID program and coordinates training of people from those countries studying agriculture in the United States.
- ... First pinpointed the halt and reversal of the exodus from rural America in the early 1970's.
- ... Reaches consumers through its monthly TV news service that is being aired by some 50 of the biggest stations, with a potential viewing audience of over 100 million adults during prime-time evening news shows.
- ... Prepared the most comprehensive analysis of the world food situation just prior to 1974's World Food Conference, an effort that famed economist Theodore Schultz credits with keeping the leadership community from buying the gloom-and-doom arguments. The Washington Post review included the following statement: "An excellent quantified analysis of the problem and the needs. Would serve as a good model for official agencies in the presentation of complex and controversial material to the informed lay reader."
- ... Carries out a program of research and analyses that supports 9 of the Department's 11 missions.
- ... Has a FY 1976 research budget of \$24.6 million and 816 full-time permanent employees located in Washington, D.C. and 32 States, principally the land grant colleges and universities. In addition, it has 130 full-time permanent employees with a total budget of \$15.0 million for foreign technical assistance and training activities and 97 full-time permanent employees and a budget of \$2.8 million providing support for programs carried out by SCS.

EXCESS TELEPHONES REMOVED..... Progress to date based on reports received by 00:

Agency	Phones Removed	Annual Savings
APHIS	74	\$15,735
AMS	27	4,704
ARS	30	6,473
ASCS	44	8,987
COMM	5	1,003
CSRS	30	7,895
EMSC	17	3,286
ERS	124	24,745
ES	10	1,897
FAS	52	10,190
FCIC	10	1,906
FCS	7	1,464
FmHA	3	644
FS	10	2,371
NAL	10	2,108
P&SA	10	1,783
REA	26	4,533
	489	\$99,724

Several of the agencies with potential for large savings have not responded, or are responding slowly, to this savings program. Including the reductions to date, 00's records indicate there are still more telephones than employees. A one-for-one or even 90 percent ratio should be cause for concern. A little more effort could substantially increase the savings to date. (Contact: Bill Roth, 00, ext. 75225)

FEBRUARY'S CONTROLLED CORRESPONDENCE VOLUME DOWN FROM LAST YEAR; ON-TIME RATE STABLE AT 60%..... Although on-time rates have been running 60-65% for the last ten months, more improvement is needed. The amount of overdue but unacknowledged correspondence continues to be the biggest single problem. It's now possible to extend the deadline in the few instances where -- for valid reasons -- a letter can't be answered within present time limits. See your Correspondence Control Officer for the ground rules. (Contact: Jerry Pepper, 00, ext. 78393)



HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 15 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING.....

- ... OP reported that USDA agency headquarters units will be on next year's CSC overclassification audit cycle. Details to follow when available.
- ... Agencies urged to have all employees obtain ID cards in preparation for new security system planned for May 1.
- ... Council asked to consider establishing a central on site correspondence unit to answer general Secretary's Correspondence. Further discussion to follow.
- ... DUE DATE. Replies concerning Agriculture Management Planning Pilot Seminar (Harper's Ferry, May 10-14) due in OP on Monday, April 19.